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School Committee Minutes 02/27/2014

Approved by the Arlington School Committee March 27, 2014

Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
and
Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 Arlington Public Schools Budget
Thursday, February 27, 2014
6:30 p.m.
School Committee Room
Arlington High School
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Present: Mr. Judson Pierce, Chair, Mr. William Hayner, Vice Chair, Ms. Cindy Starks, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Heigham, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, and Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Officer Ms. Siobhan Foley, AEA Representative, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant and Student Representative Caroline Merta.

Absent: Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Director of Special Education and AAA Representative.

Open Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 Arlington Public Schools Budget

Mr. Pierce opened the meeting and public hearing at 6:41 p.m. and noted since no one was present he would leave the time open until 7:00 p.m. in case the public arrived late and wanted to respond. Mr. Pierce and Dr. Bodie agreed another opportunity to speak on the budget will take place on March 13th.

Opening Remarks Chair

Mr. Pierce's opening remarks were on thinking outside of the box, especially when discussing the school budget. The Artwork displayed was from Stratton Elementary and Thompson Elementary Schools. Mr. Pierce informed the full committee that he, Mr. Hayner, and Dr. Bodie had a tour of the Ottoson Middle School this morning, and others could schedule a tour later in March. Mr. Pierce held a moment of silence for former teacher, coach, and Arlington native, Mr. Edward Burns who passed away. Mr. Pierce introduced and welcomed student rep Caroline Merta and Siobhan Foley to the meeting.

Public Participation

Mr. Donald Mei, parent of Kindergartener spoke in support of the Tools of the Mind program.

AHS Student to discuss petition on AP Government Class (Goal 3)

Ms. Emma Stewart, Arlington High School junior provided the committee with a signed petition with 184 students and staff signatures who support adding classes to AHS Program of Studies for 2014-2015 school year. The two classes for consideration are: Introduction to the Analysis of Public Policy, under dual enrollment with Syracuse University and AP US Government and Politics courses. Ms. Stewart did inform the committee that Dr. Kerry Dunne supports the efforts of Ms. Stewart and all the students who are advocating to add the classes, but made it clear to them that this cannot happen unless the Social Studies Department receives increased staffing and the budget proposed is approved, since Dr. Dunne has no room in scheduling/staffing in her current department.

Dr. Bodie applauded Ms. Stewart and the other students' efforts on the petition and said she would like to offer both courses and noted that student enrollment will drive which course is actually offered. Dr. Janger agreed and supports adding them into the Program of Studies. Mr. Thielman, as well as the full committee commended Ms. Stewart on her leadership on advocating for AP

courses here at Arlington High School and after learning that these courses were already included in the budget proposal, the full committee supports the following motion.

Mr. Hayner moved that the Arlington School Committee approve to add into the Arlington High School Program of Studies for 2014-2015 , Introduction to the Analysis of Public Policy, under dual enrollment with Syracuse University and AP US Government and Politics courses, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Approval of Arlington High School Program of Studies (Goal 1)

Mr. McCarthy and Dr. Janger presented the proposed Program of Studies for 2014-2015 for approval. Mr. McCarthy noted the changes to the program such as Letter Grade Language on page 9 and pointed out new course additions starting on page 15 and include offerings in World Language, Mathematics, Family Consumer Science and Physical Education.

Mr. Hayner moved approval of the Arlington High School Program of Studies, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 6-1-0, Mr. Schlichtman abstained

Approval of Arlington High School Athletic Handbook, M. Janger (Goal 1)

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to approve the Arlington High School Athletic Handbook, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Bodie informed the committee that the Arlington High School Building Reports will be presented to the Board of Selectman on Monday, March 10, 2014 and a Forum for parents and the community will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.. Tours of the high school will be posted on the website, and RSVP's will be taken in the main office of the high school.

Warrant Article 7 for the Annual Town Meeting

Eliminate Fees in APS Extracurricular Activities

Mr. William Downing spoke on his Warrant Article to eliminate fees for extra-curricular activities, which include both elementary instrumental music and high school athletics fees. He provided a spreadsheet which included the cost of each sport in Arlington and the average cost of the sport in the rest of the Middlesex League. The School Committee agrees that it would be great to have lower or no fees in Arlington Public Schools but noted that elimination of the fees have a ripple effect in the budget because if we cut fees, then we would need to cut somewhere else. Making it additionally hard to fight for this this year is the fact that the Town gave us additional money to cover expanded enrollments. This makes it harder to ask for another increase in funds from the Arlington Taxpayers for athletics and music. Although the Finance Committee voted no action, the School Committee put off taking any vote until they take up all warrant articles for this year's town meeting at a later School Committee meeting. It was noted that individual Town Meeting members who are also school committee members can still support it during Town Meeting.

Dr. Bodie provided the committee with a chart prepared by the Athletic Director.

FY 15 Superintendent Budget Superintendent Bodie (Goal 3)

Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson provided an overview on the FY 15 Budget priorities to the full committee. On Monday, March 17, 2014 the Superintendent will bring the budget to the Finance Committee. The main discussion on the FY 15 Budget, was on the increase costs to Special Education. This was due to Out of District costs, and it was noted that many other communities are experiencing similar increase costs. One other concern Dr. Bodie pointed out were the administration needs to implement the new teacher evaluation system. Dr. Bodie said that all administrators and department heads will continue to evaluate the needs of the system and that, the money reserved for teacher positions could be used for more administrator help if necessary. The committee members requested that Ms. Johnson include footnotes in the budget to inform them when and possibly where budget items are moved as the budget is changed occasionally from one area to another. Another request was to list what text books we purchase each year. Ms. Johnson noted spending is on target, but noted it would be difficult to include footnotes, given the nature of the data and how it is stored. Dr. Chesson said she works closely with the Directors of Curriculum on which books are needed for next year and can provide lists to anyone who wants to see them.

Dr. Bodie asked School Committee members to state their budget priority list. Ms. Starks suggested that Dr. Bodie include in the budget message the effects on the budget that people don't necessarily know are happening, such as the New Teacher Evaluation System, the New Common Core Curriculum Standards and the enrollment growth. These are all factors that are impacting the FY 15 Budget.

Monthly Financial Reports

Ms. Johnson said nothing has changed on the February 2014 reports from previous months.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bodie was pleased to report that Thad Dingman has accepted the Dallin Elementary School Principal position. Dr. Bodie updated the committee on the AHS Statement of Interest and will include all of the school's needs. The Board of Selectmen will also need to vote and approve the AHS Statement of Interest with very specific language on Monday, March 10th. The Statement of Interest must be submitted by April 11, 2014 to Massachusetts School Building Authority. (Goal 4). Dr. Bodie said Dr. Chesson and the Tools of the Mind committee had set up two meetings, March 3 and March 6 for parents to speak on concerns versus support of and then will provide a report to the School Committee by the end of March.. Dr. Bodie informed the community the last day of school is currently on Monday, June 23 due to snow. Dr. Bodie congratulated Anna Smokovich who was chosen as the MIAA Student Athlete of the Month. Anna is a senior and a three-sport varsity student-athlete, captain of volleyball, basketball and softball, and has earned a 3.85 grade point average. Dr. Bodie informed every one of the OMS musical, Guys and Dolls.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Starks moved to approve *Approval of Warrant: Warrant #14109 Dated January 23, 2014 in the amount of \$1,418,496.08 and Warrant #14119 Dated February 13, 2014 in the amount of \$853,053.70 and Approval of Draft Minutes: December 12, 2013, and pull December 19, 2013, and January 9, 2014, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 7-0

Ms. Starks moved to approve Draft School Committee minutes from December 19, 2013, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 6-1-0, Mr. Pierce Abstained

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Thielman presented the following policies:

- 1st reading of Policy KEB (Public Complaints), which replaces policies KE (Public Complaints), KE-E (Public Complaints), KEB (Public Complaints about School Personnel – current version), and KEB-R (Public Complaints about School Personnel).
- 1st reading to remove Policy H (Negotiations) HG (Method of Determining Staff Negotiating Organizations), and JFABA (Kindergarten Fee Policy) – policies are either inconsistent with current law or obsolete.

Mr. Hayner moved the 10 o'clock rule to 10:30 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.
Voted: 7-0

Budget

Ms. Starks presented the following policy:

- 1st reading to change Policy KF-E Fee Structure For Rental of School Building Space

After Mr. Pierce questioned if the costs were a graduated increase on the fee structure for school rentals, Ms. Starks noted that the policy is approving the formula used to figure out the fee structure for after school programs, but that each program director can meet with the CFO to work out rental fees.

Community Relations, L. Heigham nothing to report

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, K. Allison-Ampe nothing to report

Facilities, B. Hayner working on a meeting date.

Chair

Mr. Pierce moved to add Special School Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

After discussion the following amendment was made:

Ms. Starks moved to amend the motion, to approve the Special School Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Ms. Starks said we received the following correspondence:

- *Email from parent Katy Coughlin about the process and issues surrounding the Tools of the Mind Curriculum in the kindergarten, email response from Dr. Bodie and an email Thank you from Ms. Coughlin*
- *MASC legislative bulletin dated January 24, 2014*
- *Email from Emily Logan in support of the Tools of the Mind Curriculum*
- *Press release, forwarded by Dr. Bodie about improvements in the high school graduation rate in Massachusetts for the 7th consecutive year.*
- *Email from Dr. Bodie that Sheri Donovan has announced her retirement at the end of this school year.*
- *Emails about the rescheduled PARCC seminar for yesterday (February 12) at 6:30 pm.*
- *Email with Appendix E of Part IV of the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation, Model Contract Language –forwarded by Dr. Bodie from Mitchell Chester*
- *Email from principal Janger announcing the AHS students who earned all state honors for musical achievements.*
- *Going Paperless survey from Adam Kurowski*
- *Copy of the final salary survey undertaken by the town and presented to Selectmen on 2/3/2014*
- *Invitation to an evening of choral voices K-12 Tuesday, February 4 at 7pm in the AHS auditorium*
- *Letter from Juliette Lauzon in support of the Tools of The Mind curriculum.*
- *Invitation to the Tools of the Mind Informational night for parents on Weds. 2/12 at Thompson*
- *Email from Bishop K parents Jill Fekete and Scott Lever with concerns and questions over the Tools of the Mind Curriculum.*
- *Press release from Dr. Bodie with the finalists for the Dallin principal position and when parents can meet them.*
- *Email from Hardy K parent Ann Chabra in support of Tools of the Mind.*
- *Email informing us about candidate for director of special education meeting on Monday, February 10 at 4pm.*
- *Superintendent's January Newsletter*
- *Handouts from the MASC PARCC presentations*
- *Email about the death of Ed Burns*
- *Email about students requesting AP Government class for next year*
- *Email from Thompson parents Nili Pearlmutter and Todd Bearson who support the Tools of the Mid Curriculum.*
- *Email information from Tim Ruggere about things going on at Ottoson*
- *Email forwarded from Dr. Bodie announcing Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Releases List of Schools to Participate in 2014 PARCC Field Test*

Several emails with legal expenses from Stoneman, Chandler, and Miller.

Email from Dr. Bodie with information about a student assault that happened on Tuesday, February 11.

Email on early closings of the APS due to the storm on Thursday

Email from Chuck Miller in support of the Tools of the Mind Curriculum in K

Information on the School Law symposium on Friday, May 2

IBB documents from Jeff Thielman

Email announcing the choice of Thad Dingman as the next principal at Dallin.

Email from Hardy K parent Emily Logan with her support for Tools of the Mind and an accompanying spreadsheet of dozens of parents and their feedback on Tools of the Mind.

Email from Lisa Newmark, Thompson parent, in support of the Tools of the Mind curriculum

Email from Robert DiLoreto about the Boys Basketball, Boys Ice Hockey, and wrestling teams on their exciting seasons.

Letter from Callie Martin on the editorial staff of the Arlington Year Book requesting that the school committee place an ad in this years yearbook.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 10:21 p.m., seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/css